



NAVY NEWS



Vol. 10/01

Forward ... from the Sea

March 2, 2001

Two pilots killed in T-45 Goshawk crash

By Naval Air Station Kingsville public affairs

KINGSVILLE, Texas (NNS) — Two pilots were killed when their T-45 Goshawk training aircraft crashed into the Atlantic Ocean Feb. 21 while performing safety observer duties near the aircraft carrier USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). The two-seat trainer carried a pilot and a back seat pilot observer.

Killed in the crash were Navy Lt. Gregory Fulco, an instructor pilot from Naval Air Station Kingsville, and Air Force Capt. Justin Sanders, a test pilot from Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla.

The Goshawk was based at NAS Kingsville, Texas.

The mishap occurred one nautical mile from the carrier and approximately 81 nautical miles from Mayport, Fla., at approximately 4:18 p.m. EST.

The aircraft was temporarily assigned to a detachment based at NAS Jacksonville performing aircraft carrier landing qualifications.

The Navy has begun an accident investigation to determine the cause of the mishap. No crewmembers from the carrier were injured and the ship sustained no damage.

The T-45A Goshawk is a twin seat, high performance, fully carrier capable training aircraft. It provides the Navy



T-45 Goshawk

U.S. Navy photo

the capability to train student naval aviators for high performance jet aircraft and initial carrier qualification.

More information about the T-45 Goshawk can be found at <http://www.navy.mil> under "fact file."

TPU career counselors help win "War for People"

By Navy Counselor 1st Class(SW/AW) John H. Wise, Transient Personnel Unit, Norfolk

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — Transient Personnel Unit (TPU) Norfolk recently earned the Atlantic Fleet Retention Excellence Award by convincing record numbers of separating Sailors to "Stay Navy." How did the largest TPU facility in the Navy achieve this incredible "change of heart?"

According to Cmdr. Jeanne McDonnell, TPU Norfolk's commanding officer, it's a direct result of the superb efforts of her career counselor staff.

"In addition to keeping my staff retention above 75 percent,

my career counselors reenlisted nearly 20 Sailors in the last six months who have come to TPU from other commands to separate," said McDonnell.

The command career counselor team provided separating Sailors with a comparison of the benefits of staying on active duty and what they can expect if they decide to leave the service. The career counselors also used Navy veterans who have recently returned to active duty to share their real-life experiences in the civilian sector with separating Sailors.

"In most of these cases, the

information we provide is based on current job market information we get from the web," explained Chief Navy Counselor(SW) Matthew E. Ambrose. "Overall, we are very successful with TPU Sailors because most of them really don't want to get out in the first place."

Ambrose said a major factor in the TPU's ability to retain eligible Sailors is the quality and quantity of information available from the career counselor's offices. Technology has made it possible for a member to ask virtually any career-related

question and get the right answer the first time without having to wait more than five minutes.

Navy Personnel Command's Center for Career Development (CCD) in Millington, Tenn., is planning to incorporate this best practices success story into its training program at future CCD career decision fairs. CCD recognizes that the most important element of best practices is command involvement, and encourages other commands to be proactively involved in enhancing career development programs for their Sailors.

USS Cowpens aids in earthquake relief

By Lt. j.g. Brandon Halm, U.S. Coast Guard

MUMBAI, India (NNS) — USS *Cowpens* (CG 63) provided humanitarian relief supplies to Indian earthquake victims on Feb. 15 while simultaneously participating in the International Fleet Review “Bridges of Friendship” in Mumbai, India. The guided missile cruiser was designated to represent the United States at the mega-event, which included more than 60 ships from around the world.

It was during the transit from Yokosuka, Japan, to Mumbai that the tragic earthquake struck the northern Kandla/Bhuj area.

Cowpens made a scheduled stop in Singapore and took on more than \$80,000 worth of disaster relief supplies for the victims in India. The entire crew pitched in and stored

numerous sleeping bags, tents, blankets, water bottles and many other essential items for delivery. In addition to these supplies, *Cowpens* was assisted by the Project Handclasp organization and received four additional pallets of various hygiene and medical supplies.

After arriving in Mumbai, the *Cowpens* crew received a warm welcome from the Indian government and coordinated an offload of the disaster relief supplies with the CARE organization in India. Sailors spent hours offloading the materials in small boats that were to be used as liberty vessels, but instead were diverted temporarily to transfer the relief supplies ashore.

A working party accompanied the material to a private wharf in Mumbai Harbor where Indian customs,



USS Cowpens (CG 63) stands at parade in Mumbai Harbor, India. The guided missile cruiser is one of 97 ships from 19 countries that visited Mumbai partaking in the International Fleet Review.

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class David C. Mercil

police and CARE representatives had trucks waiting to load the material. *Cowpens* crewmembers joined local Mumbai workers and loaded the relief supplies, and the trucks then departed on their twelve-hour journey to the earthquake site.

Suprabha Agarwal, the

state representative for the CARE organization, was overjoyed to receive the material and said that victims in Kandla will make good use of the relief supplies.

More information about USS *Cowpens* and other ships of the 7th Fleet can be found at <http://www.c7f.navy.mil>.

CINCPACFLT Retention Team visits NTCGL, supports Reverse Sponsorship

By Chief Journalist Rhonda Burke, Naval Training Center public affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) — Members of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT) Retention Team have been visiting Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, to get a first-hand view of training at boot camp and in “A” schools and to support the Reverse Sponsorship Initiative, developed by senior leadership at Service School Command, Great Lakes.

The Reverse Sponsorship Program links Sailors in “A” school with their gaining command by having Sailors initiate an e-mail message to

their gaining command’s command master chief upon receiving their orders.

“Our particular focus is on the first-term Sailor,” said Master Chief Navy Counselor[NCCM](SW/SW) Jean Palmero, CINCPACFLT career counselor. “We know they leave the Navy when their expectations are not met.”

The Retention Team members say Sailors often cite command climate over pay and other benefits as a reason for leaving the service.

“The sponsorship program is critical. We know they are pumped up after leaving boot

camp and “A” school, but when they arrive at their first command, how they are received has a lot to do with how they feel about the Navy long-term,” Palmero said. “We need to treat them right from the beginning.”

Under the Reverse Sponsorship Initiative, which Service School commanding officer Capt. Douglas A. Block attributes to his chiefs, the emphasis is on making sure the junior Sailor feels a part of the command team from the time he receives his orders.

“I remember what it was like to report to my first ship as

a young enlisted Sailor and it wasn’t a good experience,” Block said. “You get to a major airport and you have to find your way to the base and then to the ship, where no one is expecting you and you don’t know what to expect.”

As part of the reverse sponsorship program, Sailors e-mail their gaining commands as part of a homework assignment after receiving their orders. Staff members at Service School Command update the latest fleet information to help students

See Sponsorship, page 4

COMNAVSURFLANT Senior enlisted mentor recruits

By Chief Journalist Rhonda Burke, Naval Training Center public affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) — Two recruit divisions currently in training at Recruit Training Command (RTC) Great Lakes are being linked to the fleet through an innovative process that has master chief petty officers mentoring recruits throughout basic training.

The Navy Personnel Command and Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT) have adopted Divisions 113 and 114, respectively.

“Sponsoring a division gives the opportunity for field groups to interface with recruits and serves as a great motivational tool,” said Force Master Chief(SW/AW) Bill Slingerland of COMNAVSURFLANT. “It also gives us a great opportunity to put our money where our mouth is in terms of mentorship.”

Slingerland believes the program augments the training received in boot camp and gives the fleet an opportunity to

offer feedback and guidance to recruit division commanders (RDCs) and recruits.

“I think the fleet master chiefs need to see the ‘Sailorization’ process and understand what the needs of these young people are. It will help them to manage these new Sailors when they get to the fleet,” Slingerland said.

Under the sponsorship program, master chief petty officers from the sponsoring command are aboard for key events during the division’s training cycle, including commissioning of the division, physical training, Captain’s Cup Olympics, barracks and personnel inspections, battle stations and pass in review. Additionally, the master chiefs and RDCs communicate via e-mail at least once a week.

“I think it is a really beneficial program because we have the opportunity to learn from the experiences the master chiefs have had in the fleet,” said Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class(SW) Willie

Robinson, recruit division commander for Division 114. “It really adds to the motivation when the master chiefs sit with the recruits at meals and have open conversations with them.”

Chief Yeoman(SW) Beverly Caires has pushed a number of recruit divisions. She says the biggest difference in the sponsored division is that recruits are more familiar with Navy rank structure and less intimidated to talk to leaders outside the division.

“A lot of Sailors join the Navy to go to college or learn a trade, now I’m hearing these recruits early on in the training process saying, ‘I can do all that and be a master chief petty officer.’ They are setting their goal to emulate the master chiefs they have met,” Caires said.

Caires says the interaction with senior leadership also helps familiarize the

See Recruits, page 5

Navy increases enlistment incentives

By Navy Recruiting Command public affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — The Navy is offering a new round of signing bonuses worth up to \$20,000 and educational incentives worth up to \$50,000, available to recruits who sign up after Feb. 1 and leave for recruit training by May 31. This bonus is an increase over previous cash amounts. It is also now available to a larger number of occupational job specialties with bonus increases between \$1,000 and \$6,000.

Those who qualify can receive \$3,000 to \$14,000 in bonuses, paid upon successful completion of required training. To be eligible for the bonus, applicants must qualify for the job and have a high school diploma or GED (general equivalency diploma).

All Sailors with high school diplomas or GEDs (earned by the end of their first enlistment) qualify for the Montgomery

G.I. Bill (MGIB). High school diploma graduates who earn a qualifying score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) could more than double the MGIB benefit by choosing an eligible rating and the Navy College Fund (NCF) Option. Qualified applicants choosing an enlistment term of four years or more can receive \$30,000; \$40,000; or \$50,000 in conjunction with the MGIB, toward their future education. Some skills also offer a combination of signing bonus and NCF.

For those who have already started college and are looking to pay back federally funded student loans, qualified applicants entering eligible skill areas can receive up to \$10,000 to pay back the principal on loans.

The Navy values educated, motivated young people and is offering additional cash enlistment bonuses for college credit. When combined with the new bonuses,

total cash incentives can reach up to \$20,000. Specific amounts offered to eligible applicants for education credits are as follows:

- Associate’s degree — \$4,000;
- Bachelor’s degree — \$8,000;
- 1 year/1000 hours vocational technical education — \$2,000;
- 2 years/2000 hours of vocational technical education — \$4,000;
- 24-47 semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$2,000;
- 48-71 semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$3,000;
- 72-95 semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$5,000;
- 96+ semester hours (or equivalent) of college — \$6,000.

For more information about Navy opportunities, contact a Navy Recruiter at (888) 633-9674 or via e-mail at <mailto:bonus@cnrc.navy.mil>.

Comfort at last: USS *Kitty Hawk* sleeps better

By Journalist Seaman James Zike, USS *Kitty Hawk* public affairs

USS *KITTY HAWK*, At Sea (NNS) — The entire crew aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) will soon be resting easier.

Thanks to a Navy-wide quality-of-life initiative, over 5,000 new innerspring mattresses will cradle the crew to sleep each night. The older, thinner mattresses the crew has been using for years have literally been “a pain in the neck” for some *Hawk* Sailors. But the new innerspring mattresses, designed to better support a Sailor in their resting hours, are a change for the better.

“The old mattresses were hard to sleep on,” said Fireman (FN) Josh Craddock of Edon, N.C. “They were so thin that it sometimes felt better to sleep on a sheet of metal than a rack. But these new mattresses are great. I haven’t slept so well in a while.”

“They are so much more conformable than the old ones,” said Yeoman Seaman Jose Galvez, a native of Marieno

Valley, Calif. “They were so old and thin that whatever back support they did have was long gone — it was just time to get rid of them. I’m glad that we have the new ones on board now. When we go underway, they will make a big difference in the way I sleep.”

The innerspring design is the reason behind the Sailors’ happiness.

“The design of the new mattresses, with an innerspring coil, is recognized by industry to provide maximum comfort and proper support,” said Lt. Cmdr. Gretchen Merryman, *Hawk*’s maintenance officer.

The innerspring mattresses also last longer and therefore cost less in the long term than the older, foam-based mattresses.

“The new ones have a life span of about seven years ... about two to four years longer,” Merryman said.

The mattresses, which come in three different sizes to accommodate different berthing space dimensions aboard *Kitty*



USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63)

U.S. Navy Photo

Hawk, also cost less on average than the foam-based style, Merryman added.

Replacing mattresses for the entire crew of America’s only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier is no easy task. Spread over a 14-day in port period, the task filled the ship’s hangar bay with a mix of Sailors, wooden pallets, empty boxes and bedding materials in staging areas spread throughout the ship and the pier.

“It was definitely worth the effort though, because these new mattresses are much more conformable,” said FN Marco Escalanare of San Francisco.

“(The process) was crazy,”

said Yeoman 3rd Class Shannon Boyd. “There were long lines of people passing the mattresses all through the hangar bay. It was difficult to move around the ship because of the change out. But I’m glad that we finally got them, because it will be so nice to be able to sleep comfortably for a change.”

Replacement of all ship’s mattresses will be finished before *Kitty Hawk* departs Yokosuka, Japan on March 2 for its scheduled 3 1/2 month spring underway period with Carrier Air Wing 5.

More information about USS *Kitty Hawk* can be found at <http://www.kittyhawk.navy.mil>.

Sponsorship, con’t. from pg. 2

better prepare for their next duty station using fleet web pages.

The command has established an initial e-mail letter which students are required to send that includes their name, graduation date, projected arrival date, leave address and phone number, family members, and a reply e-mail address. The e-mail is sent to the gaining command’s command master chief.

The gaining command is asked to respond with welcome aboard and sponsorship information and to answer Sailors’ questions about

reporting to duty.

“First impressions are lasting,” said NCCM(SW/AW) Max Vallejos, Naval Surface Force Pacific career counselor. “We are excited about this initiative and expanding it Navy wide. It is important that these Sailors feel a part of the Navy family throughout their career.”

The program, which began in the summer of 2000, has increased from 300 e-mails per month to more than 7,000 e-mails in December, but leaders are still looking for greater improvements.

“Our biggest obstacle is technology,” said NCCM(SW/AW) Ray Blanton, Naval Air Force Pacific career counselor. “We need to improve technology so that Navy command e-mail systems interface and to make the process easier to use.”

As part of their visit to Great Lakes, the retention team met with information systems personnel at IT “A” School and from the Career Development Center to talk about integrating technology to make the Reverse Sponsorship Program more user friendly.

“Our job is to travel around the fleet to listen to Sailors and find out what we can do to improve retention,” said Lt. Danielle Ryan, CINCPACFLT Retention Team manager.

“Sometimes we lose Sailors when they depart the gates of Naval Training Center, Great Lakes,” said Blanton. “They are pumped up and feel apart of a team, then they check on board their next command and they don’t feel that. We lose them right then.” better prepare for their next duty station using fleet web pages.

USS *Curtis Wilbur* supports United Nations operations

By U.S. Support Group East Timor public affairs

DILI, East Timor (NNS) — USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, arrived off the coast of Dili Feb. 22, continuing U.S. humanitarian support of East Timor's transition to independence.

Curtis Wilbur Sailors operated under the command of U.S. Support Group East Timor (USGET), an American military command subordinate to the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. USGET personnel handled the coordination and logistical support for *Curtis Wilbur*'s visit as with the preceding U.S. vessels that have visited Dili since February 2000.

Members of the crew spent their three-day visit performing a variety of community service projects including rehabilitating Tuana Laran Elementary School by painting and performing repairs to the electrical and plumbing systems, and distributing supplies and

donated items to the St. Peters School for distribution throughout the country. Crewmembers also hosted the Boy and Girl Scouts as well as members of the Timor Lorosae Police Service on board for a special tour of the destroyer.

This visit was part of the ongoing commitment of the United States to support the U.N. objectives and those of the nation's regional friends and allies. The U.S. is deeply committed to the development of East Timor's independence and the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts.

USGET and the rotational ship visits will continue to focus on opportunities to improve the basic health and social conditions and to foster the development of greater self-reliance for the East Timorese.

For more information about USS *Curtis Wilbur*, visit the web site at <http://www.curtis-wilbur.navy.mil>.

Recruits, con't. from pg.3

recruits with their ultimate job in the fleet.

"They really understand what they are working toward," Caires explained. She believes the process is giving the fleet a better understanding of the product that Recruit Training is sending them and gives them a chance for feedback on the training process.

For Command Master Chief(SW) Steve Ketchum of Regional Support Group, Norfolk, the experience has been eye opening.

"There is a lot of grumbling out in the fleet that boot camp isn't what it was 25 years ago; it's not, it is far superior to what I experienced," Ketchum said. "The basics are still here but the manner in which they are taught is far superior."

Ketchum said that is one of the messages the master chiefs are sharing

along the waterfront.

Slingerland says he hopes fleet Sailors will benefit from the mentorship program by gaining understanding of the current training at boot camp and providing feedback to the RTC chain of command. He also hopes it will encourage more fleet Sailors to consider assignment to Great Lakes as a recruit division commander.

"Being an RDC is one of the most challenging and rewarding assignments in the Navy," Slingerland said. "RDCs have a great influence on the quality of Sailors going to the fleet and on making the Navy of the future better."

The two divisions are scheduled to graduate March 16.

More information about recruit training can be found at <http://www.ntcgl.navy.mil>.

Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- The Chief of Naval Personnel introduces a new career information tool;
- Strike Fighter Squadron 101 helps Tomcat pilots sharpen their aerial combat skills;
- The Navy's submarine school hosts MTV's Real World/Road Rules Challenge;
- Staff Sgt. Jimmy Williams shows us how NAS Key West's MWR helps Sailors get the most out of duty in America's southernmost city;
- Meet members of the Navy's only underwater photo team, training in Key West, Fla.

Compiled on tape #2001-10, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: March 4, 1981

The reactivation of two battleships, USS *Iowa* (BB 61) and USS *New Jersey* (BB 62), and the carrier USS *Oriskany* (CV 34), are included as part of the Reagan Administration's FY81 defense budget that was unveiled on this date by Defense Secretary Caspar M. Weinberger.

Iowa was eventually decommissioned on Oct. 26, 1990, after an explosion in Turret Two; *New Jersey* would fire its 16-inch guns off the coast of Beirut in December 1983, but was decommissioned on Feb. 8, 1991. *Oriskany* was never recommissioned.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at <http://www.history.navy.mil> for more information about naval history.



NAVNEWS, a weekly publication containing stories of fleetwide interest, is an official product of the Naval Media Center.

NavNews can be accessed on the Navy

Home Page: www.navy.mil. E-mail story submissions to: <pubs@mediacen.navy.mil> or call NavNews at (703)695-0911; DSN 225-0911.